

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Tony Martino, President, Board of Commissioners**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Present	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice
Commissioner Gray	Present	Bob Robinson - KLH
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	Rich Albert
Commissioner Kucera	Present	
Commissioner Martino	Present	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' INPUT

*There was no citizens' input.

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

- 1) 2016 Road Paving Program.

Manager Shepherd begins with stating he sent an email and revised spreadsheet to the Board and will be working from that during the meeting. Inadvertently, Maus Drive and Greer Drive were excluded. Those roads are put back on the program. Manager Shepherd states that he had a discussion with Bob Robinson about the additional roads that were selected and he believes Cedar Glenn Drive could be removed and put on 2017 program. The revised plan is in front of the Board to consider. In addition to what was on last week's proposal, a handful of roads have been added and also Spicher Hill Road to the alternative treatment program. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Albert have both looked at a multitude of roads and met again to discuss. One of the findings is the five year plan which is based more on planning numbers than actual numbers are not as accurate as Bob Robinson's numbers. Manager Shepherd states the five year plan is a little aggressive based on what we can actually do. The base repair is also part of the contract.

Commissioner Gray asks about the plan being aggressive compared to what we can actually do. What is the limiting factor to what we can actually do?

Manager Shepherd states that in the past, we looked at trying to do approximately one million dollars per year just for the paving program, then another \$100,000.00 of alternative treatments.

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When the enhanced program was put in place a few years ago, the Board spent a lot of time thinking about different levels of what can get done. Mr. Turley put together a plan with funding levels and the Board felt that one million dollars was a reasonable number. Last year, extra projects such as Scotch Hill Road, were included. This year, part of Ardara Road is included and are big projects and hard to get them done along with the other roads.

Commissioner Gray states that basically from 2014 to 2015, there was an increase of approximately \$317,000.00 and took us to the one million dollar. That was an increase of forty to forty one percent and then increased it again last year during the budgeting process approximately another \$222,000.00, so that was another twenty percent but twenty percent of a bigger number. Going back five years, the program has been increased double. Commissioner Gray suggests to eliminate the \$500,000.00 or to reduce it at least. He doesn't think many want to raise taxes, but if \$500,000.00 is spent in addition to the one million dollars already planned for this year, that cannot happen for very long. There is a significant reserve that can be spent, the Board discussed spending the reserve but in a planned spenddown. Everybody wants newly paved roads, but if the money is spent at this rate, then at some point will be faced with either cutting the spending on paving or raising taxes. Commissioner Gray states how Commissioner Faccenda stated last week that the residents deserve better roads. Commissioner Gray agrees with that however the residents also deserve responsible government. The reason there is money in the budget is because of the responsibility shown up to this point. Commissioner Gray does not necessarily fault the new members of the Board for wanting to spend this money, however does fault the Board members that have experience on the Board that know what this will lead to because in a couple years, taxes will need to be raised because the money will be gone. Commissioner Gray would like the Board to go back to the original budget or at least significantly reduce the \$500,000.00

Commissioner Martino states if the money isn't spent for the roads, then just let the money sit there?

Commissioner Gray states that is not what he is saying. He suggests taking some money out of the additional \$500,000.00. The budget was passed and the paving was increased \$225,000.00 or \$222,000.00 in the budgeting process last year. The program has been increased incrementally to see the results and to give Mr. Turley a chance to see what the results of the money added are. Last year, is the first year that base repair was contracted out to help free up our workers to do more in preparation for the roads. Mr. Albert states there was hardly any overtime used. The Board seemed pleased with the program last year. Planning the money spent is better than picking a number out of the air. The Board needs to show a little more restraint and long term planning. Commissioner Gray suggests adding the money slowly instead of jumping to half a million dollars.

Commissioner Kucera states there are quite a few roads on the plan that the Township is getting money back from NHTMA. Niagara, Ormsby, Old Trail Road, Verdant, Anderson, Mercer and St. Clair. What kind of money will that generate? In a memo from Manager Shepherd, states that the project agreement with MAWC with Old Trail Road would bring approximately seventy five thousand dollars.

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Manager Shepherd states with the NHTMA projects which is St. Clair, Mercer, Anderson, Torie, Ormsby and Niagara, the Township received money for those roads last year and the previous year. The Township is usually ahead because they are more organized on what they're doing. For MAWC, they just did Old Trail and a segment of Verdant. When they started the projects, the Township wasn't aware of exactly what they were doing and spoke with them about doing a project agreement but they said they would rather do one in 2016.

Commissioner Kucera states coming to prior meetings there was discussion about overtime, specifically in the police department. The Board didn't take into account of what was reimbursed.

Manager Shepherd states that when doing a budget, there is a revenue side and an expenditure side. This is a revenue. These projects are factored into the budget. Old Trail Road was at the end of the five year plan, now it's getting done because of the water project.

Commissioner Bertani states his opinion on the \$500,000.00 and is for the surge on the road paving project. One, is when the residents came to the recent meeting and were complaining about the roads, he's feels that once that happens, it's too late. We have to be proactive. Secondly, Commissioner Bertani would like to submit to the Board that what we should be doing this year is preparing the roads that are to be paved next year. The roads that are getting paved this year should have been prepped last year. Prep work should be done a year in advance to paving.

Commissioner Gray states that is not a new idea because it makes the most sense. It just doesn't work that way because it is a fluid situation with the roads depending on the winter. The roads get moved around all the time. It's a great concept, but just can't work that way unfortunately.

Mr. Albert states it comes back to the Board on their decision on what roads to be done. Issues come up during the course of the roads where roads come on, roads come off.

Commissioner Haigis states a good example is the sewer project in Country Hills. He was all for paving the roads as soon as the lines were in. From Rich's advice and NHTMA's advice, they wanted the trenches to settle for approximately one year. He feels the five year plan has worked well and is a work in progress. The amount of work getting done now he feels is getting done in time. The goal is to have them done by school start.

Manager Shepherd states maybe doing something in the middle, for instance, doing a few roads that knew were getting done next year to get them ready. The budget is established a year in advance. Wilshire Drive needs repaired and is a big project on for next year.

Commissioner Bertani states a partial list is better than none if it would help to get ahead of the game. Sounds like we are behind the eight ball.

Commissioner Gray asks Commissioner Bertani where he got the impression that we are behind the eight ball.

Commissioner Bertani states he has lived in Camelot for going on twenty years. Trolist Drive was paved last year and was the first road in Camelot to be paved since he's lived there.

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Since 1988, the housing plans that were added to the Township added one hundred twenty three roads to the Township. If you take those one hundred twenty three roads and take out the plans in Ward 3 and add the other roads in, gives you approximately two hundred roads in Ward 3. On average, fifteen roads per year, you would be talking over thirteen years just to do those roads in Ward 3. Roughly, you get twelve to thirteen years out of a road before it starts to break down. Also, there is no maintenance done to roads as far as crack sealing. Based on Ward 3, by the time we would finish that Ward, would be time to start over again without touching another road in the Township.

Commissioner Faccenda states it's time to be aggressive with the road program. This is an aggressive list and Rich is going to have a challenge meeting this list, but what are we waiting for?

Commissioner Gray states the difference is, number one, you can't just say the number of roads. If you going to make that comparison, you have to do it by road miles because some are very short and some are very long. They don't necessarily average out evenly. Secondly, when do we start? Commissioner Gray states he feels we started a few years ago when the five year plan was developed, talked about the road assessments and the money. There is a fund balance policy that says the money should be put into lasting infrastructure, which is roads and drainage. All these issues are not new, there was a lot of discussions and a plan in place.

Commissioner Faccenda states he does not close his eyes when driving through the Township. He states he has driven on all the roads and they are not good. We need to be aggressive.

Commissioner Herold asks Commissioner Gray what he thought of Kingfred Drive.

Commissioner Gray agrees that Kingfred Drive is bad. He states he has not driven all the roads in the Township, but he just wants to state he is opposed to a knee-jerk reaction of \$500,000.00 just to repair roads. If the Board wants to have a serious discussion about increasing the budget for next year substantially, then let's do so. The budget was approved before and was close to the road agreement until this came and would be moving forward to bid the job right now.

Manager Shepherd states that we should be getting more than twelve to thirteen years out of our roads. The roads may start to deteriorate a bit but need to get more years out of them.

Mr. Robinson states you should be able to get eighteen to twenty years out of a road. The Township, in general, has approximately one hundred sixty miles, so on a twenty year life expectancy, you would look to do approximately eight miles per year. Mr. Robinson states that costs is approximately \$220,000.00 to do a mile of road.

Manager Shepherd states that fiber mat on some of the roads which isn't as expensive.

Commissioner Faccenda asks Mr. Robinson about the roads lasting eighteen to twenty years, but that is starting at zero, which is not our situation. Some plans are forty to fifty years old.

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Manager Shepherd states he doesn't know of any plan that's fifty years old and hasn't been resurfaced. He states that in the past, the money was split by ward and certain roads were done every five years because the money had to be spent.

Commissioner Gray states there isn't anything saying you have to pave a road every eighteen to twenty years. If it doesn't need it, then don't pave it. Some roads hold up longer depending on how old they are and what the base is or what the drainage is like.

Mr. Robinson states that eighteen to twenty years is an average depending on the sub grades. This area has very poor sub grade conditions. Also depends on the amount of traffic.

Commissioner Bertani states the eighteen to twenty years also includes general maintenance such as crack sealing.

Mr. Robinson states maintenance items will definitely help to extend the life of a road.

Manager Shepherd states that the Board funded a skid steer with a milling attachment that is used to make really nice repairs to roads instead paving them. These repairs may add five to six years to a road.

Mr. Robinson states the patch work is very well done. He says Spicher Hill Road was patched instead of resurfaced and did a fiber mat treatment which will significantly extend the life of the road and protect the patches.

Commissioner Herold states that every year, Rich should get a list of twenty five roads with half of them that do not need major drainage work and the other half that do need major work. As far as the asphalt goes, the asphalt that is made in the plants now days is not good material. It's supposed to be shiny when it come out of the trucks and it's not because the oil is not in it. Commissioner Herold states he spoke with LaVonne about the surplus and the auditor told her the money needs spent down and he feels this is a good way to spend it for the people of the Township. The roads need fixed.

Commissioner Kucera asks Mr. Albert about the list and asks if the Road Department is able to prepare the roads.

Mr. Albert states they are going to do everything in their power. Whatever it takes. He states that at last meeting, he definitely had some concerns that the program is a lot larger and will have to give the contractor more time, but whatever the Board decides he'll make sure the roads are ready to go. Overtime will likely be required.

Commissioner Martino asks if they have any idea what the plan is for Ardara Road and Tomco Lane.

Mr. Robinson states the cost estimate to repair Ardara Road from Route 30 to the bottom of the hill was approximately \$600,000.00. The budgeted amount is \$200,000.00 for this year. To repair from Masters Lane to the bottom with a culvert is approximately \$2900.00 per foot basically doing

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a structural overlay with three inches of binder and an inch and a half of top. There will be some drainage on the right side, a small slide requiring gabions, and possibly replacing the guiderail. They are looking to receive bids in April for the milling, resurfacing and fiber mat on March 10th and will have a recommendation at the March meeting. Bids for Ardara Road will be in April. Mr. Robinson states he does not know anything about Tomco Lane.

Manager Shepherd comments on Tomco Lane. He states that Mr. Turner was present at last meeting and eluded that a portion of the road that is of concern is actually in White Oak. There is also a portion that is in the Township. The problem is the Township took over a road that is in another community. Manager Shepherd is going to take the documents of the history of Tomco Lane for Solicitor Dice.

Commissioner Faccenda asks if the Township has spoken to White Oak about it.

Manager Shepherd states he has talked to White Oak about it and they were not interested because the road is not up to standard. Tomco Lane was taken over some years ago as a private road. His opinion is what happens when a private road is taken over is the people request winter maintenance then after some years, they are not happy with the condition of the road. Over a period of time, new residents move in and are not happy with the level of service that they've received when the road was taken over.

Commissioner Martino states he hears what Manager Shepherd is saying and understands it, but the Township has taken over the road and it is our responsibility to fix the road. If there is an issue because of the section that is White Oak's then we need to work with White Oak to get it fixed.

Manager Shepherd states White Oak's position at that time was if the Township would build the road to standard, they would be ok with that.

Solicitor Dice states to keep in mind that every two years, councils change.

Commissioner Kucera states the same problem happened with Inglewood and for years thought the entire road was ours.

Commissioner Herold asks Mr. Robinson if he has a list made up of roads that need crack sealed that have already been paved.

Mr. Robinson states he has not but will be looking at the one and three year old roads.

Commissioner Herold feels for the last five years. Since the price of oil is done, we should be able to get a good price.

Motion: Commissioner Herold

Makes a motion to go with the program presented to the Board tonight.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

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Commissioner Haigis asks if a motion was made to add the \$500,000.00.

Manager Shepherd states that is correct.

Commissioner Haigis asks that the original budget for this year was a million for the road program. Approximately \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00 was spent over the budget for the past two or three years even though the budget has been increasing every year. We've been spending a little more than what has been budgeted for the past couple of years and the budgets have been increasing as well. The original budget was approximately \$130,000.00 and increase of another \$500,000.00.

Manager Shepherd states we were over approximately \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 over the budget not including the alternates. When the motion was made to add the \$500,000.00, his response was to add the alternates and then have \$400,000.00.

Commissioner Haigis states the budget will be increased another forty percent.

Commissioner Faccenda states the 1.5 million doesn't include the \$160,000.00 up to \$200,000.00 would be taken off through reimbursement.

Commissioner Haigis states the Township has already received most of that money as Manager Shepherd stated before.

Manager Shepherd states that money is already spent on other roads.

Commissioner Haigis verifies it will be another forty percent.

Commissioner Gray states the budget for road program in 2014 was \$705,038.00. Russell Standard for fiber mat was another \$74,000.00 for the total of \$779,535.00.

Commissioner Haigis states so basically we are doubling the budget from 2014. He has always been in support of paving more roads and being aggressive, but feels the road department will have a hard time keeping up and likely not done by school.

Commissioner Gray asks what this will do to payroll budgeting. Is a lot of overtime budgeted for this kind of program?

Manager Shepherd states he would have to look to what was put in for Public Works, but so far the winter is good, so that helps.

Commissioner Gray asks Commissioner Herold if his motion is to approve the program in front of the Board this evening, dated January 27, 2016.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

There are no further Board comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Herold
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion to adjourn. (7:57 P.M.)

Motion Carried 7 6 0 6 0

- Special Meeting minutes of January 27, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Tony Martino, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary
/jjm